

2875

Signature:

Arnold Domplieri
(Arnold B. Domplieri)

A circular stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIP). The text "OIP" is at the top, "DEC 23 2002" is in the center, and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is at the bottom.

The Examiner contends that the application contains claims directed to four "patentably distinct" species of the claimed invention. According to the Examiner, species 1 is directed to the invention of Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5; species 2 is directed to the invention of Figures 7 and 8; species 3 is directed to the invention of Figure 9; and species 4 is directed to the invention of Figures 10A and 10B. Applicants note that species 1 also should include Figure 6. Independent claims 1, 31 and 47, according to the Examiner, are generic to all of the species. The Examiner requests that the Applicants identify the claims that read on each of these species. The table shown below provides this information:

9/ Elect
G. Sturdy
375 1-8-3

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

DEC 27 2002

RECEIVED

Species	Claims
1	1, 2-30, 31 and 47
2	1, 31, 47 and 48-62
3	1, 31, 32, 34, 36-43 and 47
4	1, 31, 33, 35, 44, 45, 46 and 47

The Examiner requires that the Applicants elect, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicants elect the claims directed to species 1, namely, claims 1, 2-30, 31 and 47.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, she is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000. If there are any additional charges in connection with this response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: December 17, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By Arnold B. Dompieri
Arnold B. Dompieri
Registration No.: 29,736
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorneys for Applicant